Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus adapted for confocal imaging of a non-flat specimen, said apparatus having an optical axis and a predetermined lateral resolution and comprising

a coherent light source for producing a light beam,

imaging optics adapted to focus the light beam into at least one spot on a surface of a specimen, and a detector having an integration time and adapted to receive and detect light reflected from said surface;

said imaging optics comprising at least one optical component located so that the light reflected from the specimen surface passes therethrough on its way to the detector,

said optical component being movable so as to move the at least one spot, within a range of movement, to a number of distinct locations in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis, within said integration time of the detector,

wherein a distance between the most remote said distinct locations is smaller than said lateral resolution.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the moving optical component is an objective lens.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **2**, wherein the objective lens is adapted to move circularly about the optical axis.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the moving optical component is a reflecting optical element.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **4**, wherein the reflecting optical element is designed to move on dual axes.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the moving optical component is a non-imaging optical element.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **6**, wherein the moving optical component is a generally wedge-shaped transparent component.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **7**, wherein the transparent component is made of glass.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **7**, wherein the transparent component is rotatable about the optical axis of the apparatus.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the moving optical component is designed to produce a circular spot pattern on the specimen.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the light beam is composed of an array of light beams.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim **1**, wherein the apparatus further comprises a beam-splitter.

13. (Currently amended) A method for confocal imaging of a non-flat specimen, the method comprising:

providing an apparatus comprising a source of coherent light and a detector;

focusing the coherent light into at least one spot on a surface of the specimen by means of imaging optics comprising a movable optical component;

directing light reflected by the surface toward the detector via the movable optical component;

detecting the light by the detector; and

moving the movable optical component so as to move the at least one spot to a number of distinct locations within the integration time of the detector,

wherein a distance between the most remote said distinct locations is smaller than a lateral resolution of said apparatus.

14. (Original) A method according to Claim **13**, wherein the movable optical component moves on dual axes.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim **13**, wherein the movable optical component rotates about an optical axis of the apparatus.

16. (Original) A method according to Claim **13**, wherein the movable optical component produces a circular spot pattern on the specimen.

17. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is adapted for axially scanning a surface of the said specimen and for obtaining a depth measurement of said surface in a direction substantially parallel to said optical axis.

18. (New) A method according to claim 13, further comprising the step of axially scanning a surface of the said specimen and obtaining a depth measurement of said surface in a direction substantially parallel to an optical axis of said coherent light incident on said surface.